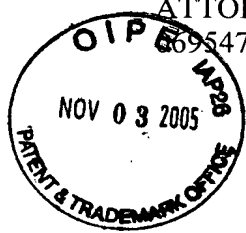


*DJW*



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
869547.0172

PATENT APPLICATION  
10/689,185

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Michael (nmi) Sweeting  
Serial No.: 10/689,185  
Filing Date: October 20, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3624  
Examiner: Unknown  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING FUTURES  
CONTRACTS IN A FINANCIAL MARKET ENVIRONMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

*Christine Fortier*  
Christine Fortier

10/31/05  
Date of Signature

**THIRD REQUEST FOR STATUS**

Applicant respectfully inquires as to the status of the above-identified patent application. Applicant previously filed a Second Request for Status on June 3, 2005. Applicant has not received any communication on the merits. Accordingly, Applicant is filing this Third Request for Status to respectfully inquire about the status of the present application, and in particular to request notice of when the first Office Action on the merits will be issued.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
069547.0172

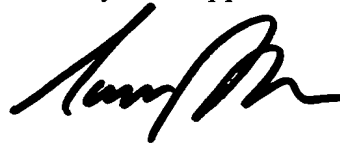
PATENT APPLICATION  
10/689,185

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**REMARKS**

If there are any matters that can be cleared up through a telephone conversation, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (214) 953-6581.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant



Samir A. Bhavsar  
Registration No. 41,617

Date: October 31, 2005

Correspondence Address:

at Customer No. **05073**